

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claims 1 and 4-20 are rejected.

Claims 2 and 3 are objected to and have been rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of the independent claim.

Claims 1 10, and 11, the two independent claims, have been amended.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 4-9, 11-13, 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Recht et al (US 5,841,851). In response, Claims 1, 10, and 11, the original independent claims, have been amended to make clear that a sensor for detecting the presence of the connector is proximate to the receptacle. The sensor in Recht is a software program coupled with a voltage meter. Neither is truly a “sensor” nor is either proximate to the phone line receptacle itself. See, Recht, column 7, lines 51-column 8, line 20. Accordingly, Recht cannot support a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Since the independent claims are allowable, each of the dependent claims are also allowable. In addition, each of the dependent claims introduce separate non-obvious limitations over the teachings of Recht.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Retch et al (US 5,841,851).

Accordingly, Claims 14 and 15 are allowable.

For the reasons stated above, Recht is no longer relevant art to Claims 14 and 15. Recht does not teach or imply a connector sensor proximate to the receptacle. Moreover, although the Office Action is correct that a connector must be placed within the receptacle in order for a user to use a phone, the

Specification (page 2, line 1-page 3, line 11), makes clear that in some instances, a user cannot be sure whether the failure to receive a dial tone is due to a disconnected line or to some other fault. The teaching in Recht is thus converse to the teaching of the present invention, i.e., a user in Recht knows that the phone line must be connected when installing the telephone. This does NOT resolve the issue of knowing whether a phone line is connected when a fault occurs after installation. In common practice, we all know that a phone line can be "dead". Recht teaches nothing about sensing whether the dead line is due to a disconnected connector or to some other problem with the phone line or the telephone itself.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horne (US 6,298,122) in view of Recht et al (US 5,841,851). Horne does not cure any of the deficiencies of Recht. As stated in the Office Action, all Horne provides is a teaching of a printer capable of communicating through a transmission line. Since Recht cannot support the other limitations of Claim 10, Claim 10 is accordingly allowable.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 2 and 3 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2 and 3 have accordingly been rewritten in independent claim form.

The application and claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance in their present form and which allowance is respectfully requested.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is hereby authorized to call Applicant's Attorney, Richard Spooner, at Telephone Number (585) 423-5324, Rochester, New York.

Respectfully submitted,

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ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES

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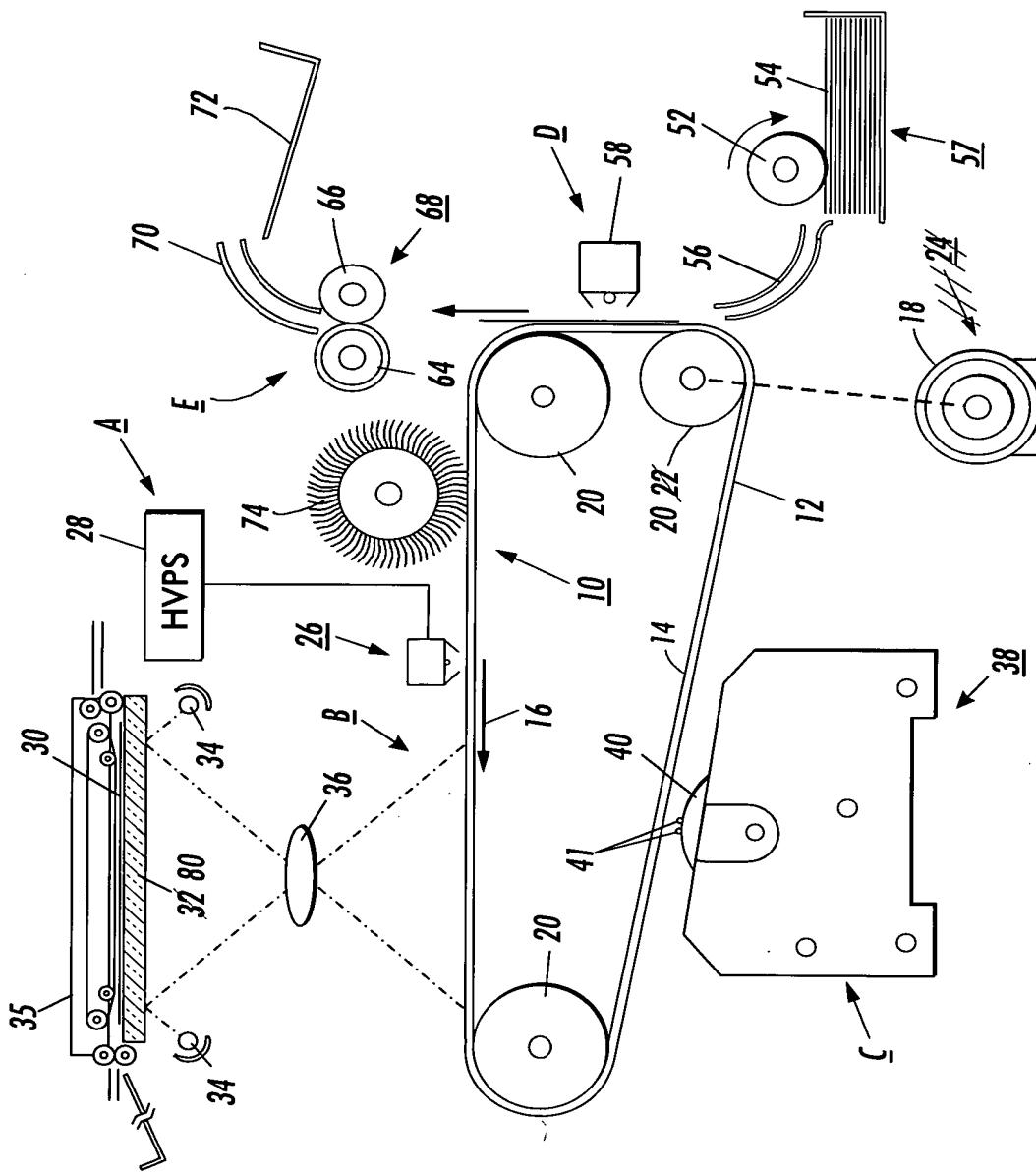


FIG. 6